

sad feeling in my heart, because he truly is a man of integrity and one from whom I have learned a great deal about in the Congress.

As a good neighbor, I want to thank the gentleman. He is a man who keeps his word. I want to thank him especially for the support that he personally gave me in our land grant bill for the people of New Mexico. The people of New Mexico are deeply indebted to you for your support of that. At times it may have been a difficult thing to do, but you are a man of your word, and you kept your word.

We wish you the best. We have talked a couple times about your grandchildren, and if they are like most grandchildren, I have seen the T-shirt that says, if I knew grandkids were so great, I would have had them first, and I think your grandkids, the way you talk about them and how proud you are, know that you feel that way.

I am going to miss you in the 106th Congress, but I do want to thank you for the support and the encouragement that you have been to me. Again, you are a man of your word, a man of integrity, and it has been an honor to be a colleague of yours.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to the gentleman that there were many of our colleagues who wanted to be here tonight to pay their respects and to let the gentleman know how important he has been to their lives, but unfortunately, because of schedules, were not able to attend. So from them I just convey the best of wishes, and I yield the rest of the time to the gentleman from California (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply moved by the gentlewoman's gesture tonight of ordering this Special Order on my behalf and calling forth so many of my colleagues to come here. The greatest honor there is to serve in this Chamber, the House of Representatives, which, as everybody has just witnessed, brings together men and women of all walks of life in a common purpose here. I am so thankful, and I cannot find the words to tell my colleagues. I am so thankful that people in the 34th Congressional District of California sent me here 16 years ago and have reelected me ever since until now, in the 105th session. It is the highest tribute I dare say that can be paid to an individual when his constituency sends him here.

But, Mr. Speaker, getting here is not my job alone. This took many people along the way to do that, the people that raised me, my mother, my grandmother, my teachers, the heroes that inspired me to seek higher office because they meant something to me. My wife, whom you have just heard about, who is my strongest partner, my working partner, a woman that has been by my side for some 44 years. I would not be here, so many of us would not be here, if it was not for our spouses. We are nothing really without them. And I would have been nothing without my Arcy.

She stood by me, allowed me to give public service, sacrificed very hard, and I am so, I am so thankful that she has done this for me. Not to speak of my children who stood with me in the picket line when they were growing up and I was a member of the labor movement, who followed me in the campaigns with their bumper stickers and their posters, who even today, my oldest daughter Carmen is my campaign manager. These are the people around me that made me what I am.

The working men and women of our country. The labor movement people, the people in my auto factory that enticed me early in the 1950s that I should seek elective office in the union by exposing me to that political process and electing me for the first time as a shop steward, a chief shop steward at the Chrysler Corporation in Los Angeles. That opened up tremendous windows of opportunity for me to seek in the future.

Yes, I have a lot of mentors that have brought me to this moment here in the people's House.

□ 1845

I could name them, so many of them. My colleagues may not recognize all the names, but I have to call out to them. Frank Munoz, who was an early mentor; the Ruther brothers, Walter and Victor and Roy; Bobby Kennedy, Paul Schraeg, Reverend Andrew Young, Cesar Chavez, Tip O'Neill, Jim Wright, these are all people who really were my heroes.

Early in my working years some 44 years ago, when I was in the auto plant, a rising star came forth in Los Angeles, a young city councilman who had finally captured the city councilmanship. He moved my spirit because he was like a hero to me. His name was Edward Roybal. I yearned to be like Ed Roybal. I wanted to be somebody like him. He was my role model. He went on to become a member of this very chamber and served with great distinction on the Committee on Appropriations. Twenty-nine years later, I joined him as I arrived here with the freshman class of 1983. Would my colleagues believe that with the departure of Ed Roybal on his retirement that I would succeed him on the Committee on Appropriations? Well, I did.

It was that dream I was having that I could be here and join people like him, but now it is my turn, it is my turn to leave, it is my turn to turn the page on this legislative chapter of my life, but it is a bittersweet time for me and my wife Arcy.

We have enjoyed our 27 years in this area in the Nation's capital. It is difficult to leave. It is very difficult to leave tonight, to hear the adulations of all my colleagues here on both sides of the aisle. I know it is coming to an end. The other night, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) hosted a dinner for the California delegation and at least 20 of my colleagues were there to do what I have heard here to-

night. For 2 days I walked on air, and I know that tomorrow I will do the same, having heard all of these wonderful things about me.

I think it just speaks to the kind of camaraderie, the kind of solidarity that we can have in this House chamber. We can have it. We have it on many occasions; but, yes, one must move on. There has to be change, and I want to make it possible to have that change.

California beckons me to come back, and my family to come back, to be with our children and our grandchildren. It is really a new page in my life, for I am not retiring. I am going to stay active on international forums. I am going to stay active on human rights issues. I will teach. I will write. As some of my colleagues have said, for sure I am going to be doing a lot of drawing and a lot of painting, depicting in canvas or sketch paper those scenes that depict the life of this House of Representatives and for people in Congress.

So I want to thank all of my colleagues for making this evening a momentous occasion for me and my family. I want to thank all the people in front of me here who over the 16 years have labored hard into the night, the pages, the clerks, the staffers, the policemen. Everybody has been a part of this life of mine, and I now leave and thank all the Members sincerely from the bottom of my heart for having made it possible for me.

I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ), for allowing this to take place. Good evening and good night.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. TORRES). As we noted, he will be missed here but I know that he will keep in touch with us and we will seek his guidance.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1892. An act to provide that a person closely related to a judge of a court exercising judicial power under article III of the United States Constitution (other than the Supreme Court) may not be appointed as a judge of the same court, and for other purposes.

UNDERFUNDING OF OUR NATIONAL MILITARY AND OUR NATIONAL SECURITY APPARATUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full hour but I do want to take some time to discuss what I think is the real scandal in